

## Oregon's Watershed Measures & Waterbody Restoration Stories

Conference Call – December 4 2014

### Participants

EPA Region 10: Jayne Carlin, Dave Croxton, Jill Fullagar, Marty Jacobsen, Martha Turvey

EPA HQ: Ari Engelberg

Oregon: Pam Blake, Lisa Cox, Ivan Camacho, Tonya Dombrowski, Bill Meyers, Karla Urbanowicz, Karen Williams, Priscilla Woolverton, Don Yon

Tetra Tech: Amy King

### Meeting Summary

After brief introductions, Jayne indicated that the format of the call would include both a presentation and discussion. The purpose was to review requirements associated with WQ-10 and SP-12 measures, to discuss progress to date in Oregon, and to discuss barriers to presenting more success stories. Jayne mentioned that Tetra Tech can provide support in both confirming whether a water is a good candidate and in preparing a story.

Jayne walked through the slides distributed before the call. Important details and nuances associated with this content are highlighted below:

- Slide 4 (Classification of NPS Success Stories): EPA only counts waters meeting the “fully or partially restored waters” criteria; however, other categories are counted regionally. SP-12s are not currently included on EPA’s website, but may be in the future.
- Slides 5 and 6 (WQ-10 Fully vs. Partially Restored): It is rare for waters to be categorized as fully restored; partially restored is more common.
- Slide 7 (WQ-10 Key Requirements): To qualify as a WQ-10, the water does not need to be removed from category 4 or 5 at that time, but it needs to be the intent of the state to move the water to category 1 or 2 during the next listing cycle.
  - Karla asked about the date of the impaired waters list. Ari indicated that the restoration has to have occurred after 2002 (*later Ari corrected date to 1998*). He will follow-up with additional clarification.
  - Karla also asked whether stormwater is considered a nonpoint source for WQ-10s. Jayne indicated that the sources need to be mostly nonpoint in nature (i.e., if stormwater is permitted, it can be included as long as most of the restoration is associated with nonpoint source improvements and not just permit-related activities).
  - Ivan asked if there is a list of nationwide WQ-10 success stories. Jayne pointed to the website (<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319>), which includes nationwide success stories. Ari will confirm whether functionality will be added to search by pollutant (*EPA HQ is in the process of adding this search function*).
- Slide 11 (SP-12 Reporting Options): Oregon has completed several SP-12s, usually based on Option 2a or 2b. Option 1 requires moving the waterbody-pollutant combination from category 4 or 5 to category 1 or 2.
  - Karla asked for clarification regarding how Option 1 works for “fully restoring uses” on at least 40% of the waters in the watershed. Jayne indicated that this can apply if there are many impairments for the waterbody and more than 40% of them are moved to category 1

or 2 (even if some pollutants still remain as category 4 or 5). Jayne also reminded the group that Kary Phillips is a great resource to help identify the applicable option and type for a waterbody (note: Kary's contact information is included at the end of this summary).

- Slide 13 (Key Differences): For the SP-12 listing requirements, Jayne indicated that there is no longer a specific date associated with the listing. Jayne also mentioned that for documentation of both WQ-10s and SP-12s, Kary can help draft a story and then work with key staff or stakeholders to identify and address missing information and questions.
- Slide 15 (SP-12 Submissions): Oregon is doing well with SP-12s; good documentation helps this process. Data can come from multiple parties and does not have to be collected by the state.
- Slide 17 (WQ-10 Making Progress Stories): Bill provided an example of his experience working with contractor support to complete a WQ-10 success story. Bill mentioned that he had completed some analyses and saw consistent improvement in phosphorous in Bear Creek. He connected with Kary they worked together to complete the story.
- Slide 20 (Barriers): Jayne discussed the list included in the presentation, which was based on ideas that Region 10 has heard in the past from various states. Other barriers identified by the group include:
  - Understanding the process to move waterbodies from category 4 or 5 to category 1 or 2.
  - Perceptions that it is extra work for basin coordinators.
  - Scale can be a barrier as a large system takes time to respond and data may not show attainment of WQS; would be useful to use other metrics to show progress.

Someone also asked about why there is a need to complete the stories. Jayne indicated that there are generally agreements between the states and EPA Regions regarding the number of stories and TMDLs. Martha followed-up by indicating that there are requirements to report and document success. This documentation helps to secure funding, etc. Bill also mentioned that it is important to summarize the work completed and the investments to improving water quality to get credit for improvements. Don agreed and indicated that it was useful to show accountability to funding sources and in nonpoint source annual reports.

- Slide 21 (Next Steps): Jayne asked whether this was a conversation worth continuing or whether this call was sufficient. She also reiterated that individuals can follow up with Kary. Everyone will follow-up with Jayne or Don with ideas for further discussion and then another call will be scheduled, as determined useful and necessary (*Karla suggested additional discussion on changing the category of a waterbody in the integrated report*). Ivan also indicated that it would be useful to discuss the long-term use of a WQ-10 or SP-12 story and strategies to ensure the outcome of the story is meaningful to people working on the ground.

### **Action Items**

- Tetra Tech will provide a summary of the call. Completed.
- Ari will confirm the date of the impaired waters list associated with WQ-10 requirements. *According to Ari, the date is 1998.*
- Ari will confirm whether functionality will be added to the website to search by pollutant. *According to Ari, EPA is in the process of adding a function to allow search by pollutant.*

### **Follow-up Contact Information**

Kary Phillips

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